

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 9, 11, 12, 16 and 17 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus connected via a network to a plurality of terminal devices, the information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of the [[a]] plurality of terminal devices ~~connected via a network~~ to transfer image data information to a printer in response to a print request received by the information processing apparatus from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

an order management database storing management information about the image data stored in the specified terminal device;

a specifying unit adapted to specify a terminal device in which the image data information to be printed has been stored in accordance with the print request and the stored management information, wherein the print request includes information for designating the printer as a print destination; and

a first designating unit adapted to instruct the terminal device specified by said specifying unit to transfer the image data information to the printer designated as the print destination without passing the image data information through the information processing apparatus; and

management unit adapted to manage record information including a printing date indicating the printing was performed by the printer based on the instruction by said first designating unit.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a second designating unit adapted to designate the printer as the print destination, and said first designating unit instructs transfer of the image data information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating unit and the terminal device storing the image data information.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the mode of connection indicates said first designating unit instructs transfer of the image data information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and the printer are connected locally or via a network.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specifying unit includes a management database for managing the image data information as image file names, and

wherein said specifying unit specifies the terminal device, which is storing image data information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image data information and an identifier of this terminal device.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a totalization unit adapted to totalize statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and the printing date.

8. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus connected via a network to a plurality of terminal devices, the information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of the [[a]] plurality of terminal devices ~~connected via a network~~ to transfer image data information to a printer in response to a print request received by the information processing apparatus from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

storing management information in an order management database, the management information about the image data stored in the specified terminal device;

specifying a terminal device, in which the image data information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with the print request and the stored management information, wherein the print request includes information for designating the printer as a print destination;

instructing the terminal device specified at said specifying step to transfer the image data information to the printer designated as the print destination without passing the image data information through the information processing apparatus; and

managing record information including a printing date indicating the printing performed by the printer based on the instruction.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising, performed by any of the plurality of terminal devices, designating the printer as the print destination,

wherein said instructing step instructs transfer of the image data ~~information~~ in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated in said designating step and the terminal device storing the image data ~~information~~.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the mode of connection indicates whether the terminal device and the printer are connected locally or via a network.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said specifying step includes specifying the terminal device, which is storing image data ~~information~~ to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing the image data ~~information~~ as image file names.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image data ~~information~~ and an identifier of this terminal device.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in the management database.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, the image file names, number of pages to be printed and the printing date.

15. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to implement the method set forth in claim 8.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 [[13]], wherein the print request is issued from a first terminal device, and said specifying unit specifies a second terminal device as the terminal device in which the image information to be printed has been stored.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the print request is issued from a first terminal device, and said specifying unit specifies a second terminal device as the terminal device in which the image data ~~information~~ to be printed has been stored.